

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

1. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
2. Claims 8-9 & 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
3. Regarding claims 8 & 9, it is unclear whether the term "fixing part" denotes the same component(s) as the term "securing mechanism", or whether the former is a component of the latter, or whether the two terms denote entirely separate components. For the purposes of examination, the examiner is considering the terms "fixing part" and "securing mechanism" to denote the same component(s).
4. Regarding claim 11, it is unclear whether the terms "a hole through which the screws are penetrated" refers a single hole through which multiple screws penetrate, or set of a separate holes each penetrated by a single screw. For the purposes of examination, the examiner is considering this phrase to denote a set of a separate holes each penetrated by a single screw.
5. Claim 12 is considered indefinite since it depends from an indefinite base claim.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

6. Claims 1, 3-4, 6-12, and 15-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the prior art disclosed by applicant in Figures 1-3 of the instant application (hereinafter APAA), in view of Mitchell (5,542,795).

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7. APAA teach(es) the structure substantially as claimed, including a refrigerator door assembly, comprising a sliding door (3) configured to be slid open and closed; a handle (4) provided on a side-top edge surface of the door; and a plurality of handle holders (5) each having an end fixed to the door and another end attached to the handle, wherein the end fixed to the door comprises: a handle holder member (portion of the handle holder extending between numerals "5" and "4" in Fig. 1) extended to the handle.

8. The only difference between APAA and the invention as claimed is that APAA fail(s) to teach a supporting member protruded in a first direction on a lower surface of the handle holder member and receivable within a groove provided in the door, preventing damage from occurring on the handle holder, wherein the supporting member is disposed between the handle and a securing mechanism configured to secure a corresponding handle holder to the side of the door so as to absorb a force applied to the handle in a second direction opposite to the first direction and reinforce a strength of the handle holder when the sliding door is slid open and closed, and wherein the supporting member is integrally formed with the handle holder such that the supporting member and the handle holder are a single unitary piece.

9. Mitchell, however, teaches a supporting member (50) protruded in a first direction on a lower surface of the first structure (36) and receivable within a groove (32) provided on a second structure (22), preventing damage from occurring on the handle holder, wherein the supporting member (50) is disposed between the first structure and a securing mechanism (53) configured to secure said first structure (36) to a side of the second structure (22) so as to absorb a force applied to the handle in a second direction opposite to the first direction and reinforce a strength of the first structure. The examiner points out that whereas it is well known in the art that

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increasing the thickness of a structure increases its structural rigidity, integrally forming supporting members, as taught by Mitchell, upon the contacting surface between the handle holder and the door of APAA would obviously produce a structure capable of "preventing damage from occurring on the handle holder"; and capable of absorbing "a force applied to the handle in a second direction opposite to the first direction and reinforce a strength of the handle holder when the sliding door is slid open and closed".

10. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include a supporting member, as taught by Mitchell, upon each of the handle-holders of APAA, between the handle & securing mechanisms thereof, in order to provide a stronger & more secure connection between said handle holders and the door, by preventing providing a mechanism to prevent slippage by said handle holders (col. 5, lines 51-67 of Mitchell); and in order to provide an aid to positioning said handle holders upon said door during manufacturing; and to form said supporting member and handle holder as a single unitary piece, since forming in one piece an article which has formerly been formed in two pieces and put together has been held to involve only routine skill in the art, thereby providing the structure substantially as claimed.

11. Regarding claim 3, whereas Mitchell teaches a supporting member (50) located on a contacting surface between a first (36) & second (22) structure; and whereas emplacing a supporting member between the handle holders & door of APAA would obviously require locating said supporting member on a lower contacting surface of each said handle holder; it can therefore be concluded that modification of the structure of APAA in view of Mitchell would obviously produce a structure wherein the supporting member is located on a contacting surface between the handle holder and the door.

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12. Regarding claim 4, whereas Mitchell teaches a supporting member (50) having a width smaller than a width of the first structure (36), it can therefore be concluded that modification of the structure of APAA in view of Mitchell would obviously produce a structure wherein a width of the supporting member is smaller than that of the handle holder.

13. Regarding claim 6, whereas Mitchell teaches a groove (32) for inserting a supporting member (50) being formed on a second structure (22) around a recess (35) for accommodating a securing mechanism (53); and whereas, in the structure of APAA, analogous recesses for accommodating securing mechanisms (6) are located upon the door; it can therefore be concluded that modification of the structure of APAA in view of Mitchell would obviously produce a structure wherein a groove for inserting the supporting member is formed on the door.

14. Regarding claim 7, whereas Mitchell teaches a groove (32) whose depth is the same as a thickness of the supporting member (50), it can therefore be concluded that modification of the structure of APAA in view of Mitchell would obviously produce a structure wherein a depth of the groove is the same as a thickness of the supporting member.

15. Regarding claim 8, APAA teaches a structure wherein the handle holder is fixed to the door by a fixing part (6, 7) penetrating the handle holder.

16. Regarding claim 9, APAA teaches a structure wherein the fixing part (6, 7) is a screw (par. 21 of the instant application).

17. Regarding claim 10, APAA teaches a structure wherein the securing mechanism (6, 7) comprises at least two screws (par. 21 of the instant application) provided to fix the handle holder to the door.

18. Regarding claim 11, whereas Mitchell teaches locating a supporting member at a surrounding region of a hole (46) through which a screw is penetrated, it can therefore be concluded that modification of the structure of APAA in view of Mitchell would obviously produce a structure wherein the supporting member is located at a surrounding region of each of the holes through screws are penetrated.

19. Regarding claim 12, whereas Mitchell teaches supporting member (50) located on a lower surface of a surrounding region of a hole (46) through which a screw (53) is penetrated; and whereas emplacing a supporting member between the handle holders & door of APAA would obviously require locating said supporting member on a lower contacting surface of each said handle holder; it can therefore be concluded that modification of the structure of APAA in view of Mitchell would obviously require including a supporting member around at least one of the screws of APAA. The examiner submits that such a structure could be described as having "a supporting member is located on a lower surface of a surrounding region of a hole through which a screw closer to the handle is penetrated", since even if the supporting member were located around the rear screw (7) of APAA, that portion of the lower surface of the handle holder thereof would still be "a surrounding region of a hole through which a screw closer to the handle is penetrated". The examiner also points out that whereas mere duplication of the essential working parts of a device has been held to involve only routine skill in the art, it would have been obvious to include supporting members around each of the screws of APAA as modified by Mitchell; which resultant structure would obviously read upon the limitations of this claim. The examiner additionally points out that whereas Mitchell teaches a supporting (50) member located around a screw (53) proximate a front end of a first structure (32), modifying APAA in view of

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Mitchell would obviously imply including a supporting member at least around the screw closer to the front of the handle holder (and hence closer to the handle). ; and whereas

20. Regarding claim 15, APAA teaches a structure wherein the handle holder (5) is located on each side of the handle (4). See Figure 1.

### ***Response to Arguments***

21. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 3-4, 6-12, and 15-16 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MATTHEW W. ING whose telephone number is (571)272-6536. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 7:30 am - 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lanna Mai can be reached on (571) 272-6867. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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/José V. Chen/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3637